

Vegetation Treatment Effectiveness Tested

- By, Color Country Bureau of Land Management -



The lightning caused Atchinson Fire started on August 7, 2012 in a previous *chaining located on the Pine Valley Ranger District, east of the community of Central, Utah in Washington County. This Forest Service chaining, like various vegetation treatments mechanically conducted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), was designed to provide wildfire protection for communities at risk, from wildland fire.

When the blaze started, firefighters were quickly able to stop this fire from spreading into the community of Central, minimizing natural resource damage on many fronts. The fire's spread was halted at 51 acres the following day, containing the fire to a much smaller size than if the treatment hadn't been completed.

These treatments also enable sites to provide productive natural resource management benefits for wildlife, water quality and quantity, as well as soil stabilization and watershed restoration.

Color County BLM in Southern Utah treats approximately 13,000 acres of public land per year throughout the southern part of the state. Photo courtesy of Mike Melton - Atchinson Fire Air Attack.

**A "chaining" is an area of dense trees that is seeded to restore understory vegetation by dragging a chain in between two bulldozers over trees. These treatments restore what once was historically a favorable sagebrush and grass site after years of pinyon and juniper encroachment.*